



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - December 23, 2003**

- ***In the West***, precipitation is overspreading the ***California coast*** in conjunction with an approaching storm system, while mild, dry weather prevails elsewhere from the ***Rockies westward***. Statewide reservoir levels remain significantly below normal in all ***Western States*** except ***California***.
- ***On the Plains***, unfavorably dry, breezy weather is returning to ***southern portions of the region***, following Monday's brief burst of rain and snow. Meanwhile, most of the ***northern and central High Plains***' winter wheat is exposed to potential weather extremes due to mild weather and recent elimination of snow cover.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, widespread rain from the ***middle Mississippi Valley to the lower Great Lakes region*** is maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture reserves for winter wheat.
- ***In the South***, a line of showers and thunderstorms is crossing the ***lower Mississippi Valley***, maintaining generally favorable soil moisture levels for pastures and winter grains. Meanwhile, warm conditions are returning to the ***southern Atlantic region***, following a period of favorably cool weather that provided chill hours for peach trees and helped to force ***Florida's*** citrus trees into semi-dormancy.

**Outlook:** For the remainder of today, showers and thundershowers will accompany a cold front across the ***Ohio and Tennessee Valleys*** and the ***Gulf Coast States***. On Christmas Eve, rain will spread from the ***Mid-Atlantic States into the Northeast***. Dry weather will return to most of the ***East*** for Christmas, but snow showers will linger downwind of the ***Great Lakes*** and in ***northern New England***. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather will prevail for much of the week on the ***Plains***, although an approaching storm system at week's end may produce high winds on the ***southern Plains*** and heavy snow across parts of ***Nebraska*** and the ***Dakotas***. Farther west, stormy weather will continue to spread inland, resulting in potentially heavy snow in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for December 28, 2003 - January 1, 2004, calls for below-normal temperatures in the ***West***, while above-normal temperatures are forecast from the ***Mississippi Valley eastward to the Appalachians***. Above-normal precipitation will stretch from ***southern California and the Great Basin northeastward into the northern Plains and upper Midwest***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected along the ***Gulf Coast***, in ***western Washington***, and parts of the ***East***.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>